GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1480
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
INDIAN POST OFFICE ACT,1898
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has recommended the review of Indian Post Office Act, 1898;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. S PASWAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The recommendations of the Committee and view of the Government are as under:

Recommendations	View of the Government
1. Provide Legal basis to private couriers.	1&2. In the Indian Post Office(Amendment) Bill, 2002 introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17-05-2002, registration of private couriers has been proposed while retaining exclusive privilege of the Government for conveyance of letters.
2. Withdraw Legal protection of monopoly over letter services.	
3. Transferring tariff fixing power from legislative control.	
	3. The proposal amounts to excessive delegation of powers since it is the privilege of the Parliament
4. Corporatize the Post Office.	
5. Postal Services Board to have statutory status with enhanced administrative and financial powers.	to levy taxes. Hence not accepted. 4. The proposition is not feasible since postal services to a large extent are subsidized by the Government. 5. Suitable amendments have been proposed to this effect in the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, 2002.